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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part III)

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahbub KABIR (Bangladesh)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 133 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/48/816 and Add.1.

2. At its 66th and 67th meetings, on 6 and 13 June 1994, the Fifth Committee considered the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/48/L.69

3. At the 67th meeting, the representative of Portugal introduced a draft resolution, on the basis of informal consultations, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.69 without a vote (see para. 6 below).

5. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (see A/C.5/48/SR.66 and 67).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and subsequent resolutions of the Council, namely 725 (1991) of 31 December 1991, 809 (1993) of 2 March 1993 and 907 (1994) of 29 March 1994,

Recalling its decisions 47/451 A of 22 December 1992, 47/451 B of 8 April 1993, 47/451 C of 14 September 1993, 48/467 of 23 December 1993 and resolution 48/250 of 14 April 1994 on the financing of the Mission,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decision regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from the one applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

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1/ A/48/848/Add.1.

2/ A/48/947.

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 6 June 1994, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 20,366,361 United States dollars;

2. Expresses concern about the deteriorating financial situation with regard to peace-keeping activities owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments, particularly Member States in arrears, which, inter alia, affects the implementation of the mandate of the Mission;

3. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/ and expresses its concern about the fact that some of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, referred to in paragraph 6 of its report, were not implemented;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report, within thirty days of the adoption of the present resolution, on the full implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee approved by the General Assembly in resolution 48/250 as well as the recommendations approved in the present resolution;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

6. Urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara promptly and in full;

7. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Mission up to the amount of 18,812,800 dollars gross (17,693,100 dollars net) for the period from 1 April to 31 July 1994, the said amount to be utilized from the unencumbered balance of appropriations;

8. Also authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the maintenance of the Mission at a rate not to exceed 3.4 million dollars gross per month for the period from 1 August to 30 September 1994, the said amount to be utilized from the unencumbered balance of appropriations;

9. Invites voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".